

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

At an ordinary meeting held on Monday last, Mr. Papworth, V.P., in the chair, Mr. W. C. Reed was elected an associate. A candidate as Fellow, was black-balled, on what account did not appear.

A paper was read on the *Kentish Rag Stone* by Mr. J. Whichcord, jun., associate. The district in which it is quarried is about thirty miles in length through the central part of Kent, and is about four to ten miles in breadth. This district comprises the towns of Sevenoaks, Maidstone, and Lenham, &c. The quality of this stone is very variable, being in some districts hard and flinty, and in others almost as easy to work as Portland stone. It is in the quarries at Boughton, in the neighbourhood of Maidstone, that the best qualities of stone are procured, and as the men employed in them often find among the rubbish stones of a spherical shape, some as much as 12 inches diameter, and similar to those employed for the artillery of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, it is not improbable that at that period these quarries supplied stones for that and other purposes in the metropolis. It was to this quarry that Mr. Whichcord confined his observations, and a diagram accompanied his paper, which showed the various layers of stone and hassock, — the technical name given to a species of sand which invariably intervenes between the different strata of stone.

These layers are about twenty in number: — Firstly, the land rag, which is a hard stone, dark in colour, and is to be procured in lengths of five or six feet. This first layer is about fifteen feet from the surface of the ground, the intervening space being occupied by the vegetable mould; then a deep bed of loam of different qualities; and, lastly, three beds of hassock, separated from each other and the loam by three shallow layers of ferruginous sand. The second layer of stone is termed header-laying, on account of its being principally used for small headers. Next in order is the green rag, which is free of working, and easy to be got in lengths of about six feet. The hassock, which divides this and the next layer of rag, is indurated enough to form good working stone. We then have a layer used principally for paving, and called yellow rag, succeeded by the pelsea, from which the largest stones can be procured; hard and strong in quality. Then the coleman and little coleman, separated by the hassock, and both of which give stones too hard and flinty to be used for other purposes than headers, &c.

We now come to the thickest layer, called great rag, which from having many cross fissures cannot be got in blocks of any length, and is therefore used for headers or else for lime. The bed of hassock which lies directly under the great rag is of very superior quality, and resembles the Reigate stone. It is used by the masons for their benches, and stands the weather exceedingly well. We then have the Newington cleaves, which is hard and difficult of working, but yields stones of large size. The next layer is an exceedingly shallow one, and is so flinty, as precludes its use for other purposes than for macadamizing roads. Then the Whitland-bridge, from which stones of 12 feet long can be quarried with certainty and ease: it is of a blue colour. The next in succession is the Mainbridge, resembling the preceding layer, but from which stones of so large a scantling as from the Whitland-bridge cannot be procured. Then comes the gail, used generally for headstones: it is separated by a bed of hassock, thicker than the others, from the Horsebridge layer, which gives good stones, of nearly 15 feet in length. We then find three beds called the header-layings, with their alternate beds of hassock; these are very inferior in quality, and of little depth. The next two layers are called the upper-bottom and under-bottom; they yield stones of fair quality and large dimensions. The hassock which separates them is rubbishy, and that which follows the under-bottom layer is exceedingly soft. We now come to the last layer, which is called white rag, resembling chalk in appearance, and useless as a stone, as it crumbles in the atmosphere. It reposes on a bed of hassock clay, beneath which the quarrymen have not penetrated: it is very doubtful whether any limestone is to be found lower than this.

The author then alluded to the various modes of dressing the different kinds of rag stone, and mentioned that the small hassocky spots which occur continually, in it render it unfavourable for tooling, as they give it the appearance, when smooth, of bad Portland; it is, therefore, usually picked. He also stated that, although the harder qualities of Kentish rag stone are scarcely inferior to granite in resisting pressure, the veins occurring in it render it dangerous to use as a bearer.

The following analysis was made by Mr. Phillips:—

KENTISH RAG STONE.

Carbonate of lime, with a little magnesia	92.6
Earthy matter	6.5
Oxide of iron	0.8
Carbonaceous matter	9.4

HASSOCK.

Carbonate of lime	26.2
Earthy matter	72.0
Oxide of iron	1.8

CHURCH NEWS.

THE inhabitants of Rotherham are about to restore the south porch of their ancient church to its original state. The works are entrusted to Messrs. Weightman and Hadfield, architects. — The new church at Rise, in the diocese of Bangor, was consecrated on the 12th ultimo. The interior of the roof is painted blue, and studded with gilt stars. There are four stained-glass windows. The east window is a representation of the last days of our Saviour upon earth—the crucifixion, the taking down from the cross, &c. The walls are decorated with scrolls with appropriate texts of Scripture. It was built at the sole expense of Mr. Bethell, from a design by Mr. Chantrell; of Leeds, architect. — On Wednesday next, the 10th inst., the nave of the Holy Trinity Church, at Hull, will be re-opened by the Rev. Dr. Hook, Vicar of Leeds. — The church of St. Mary De Crypt, Gloucester, was re-opened with great pomp on Thursday week. — An organ has recently been erected in St. Paul's Church, Herts Hill, by Bishop. The case in which it is contained, is of carved oak, cut by the machine of Mr. S. Pratt, of Bond-street; the cuttings are of quatrefoils, gothic and heraldic devices. It may be said to be in two compartments, being placed on each side of a gothic window, richly painted, at the west end of the church. — In the process of taking off the whitewash from the interior of the Hungerford Chapel, in Wellow Church, thirteen distemper drawings, representing our Saviour and the twelve apostles, have been discovered around the east window. The larger figures, eight in number, are about half the size of life, and the colouring of the whole is said to be well defined. — It is intended to make some extensive repairs and improvements in the parish church of Liddington, Wilts, including a re-pewing of the church throughout, with the view of increasing the accommodation, which is much wanted. — The sum of 2,600*l.* Threeper Cent. Consols, has recently been transferred by Miss Jané Cook, of Cheltenham, to the trustees of the London Society for promoting Christianity among the Jews, for the purpose of enabling the committee to complete the building of the church on Mount Zion, according to the plan proposed by their architect. — (George Liddell, Esq., has lately given a plot of ground, as a site for the new parish church of St. Paul, at Hull. The value of the donation is ascertained from the fact of 850*l.* having recently been refused for this piece of land. — A monument has within the last week been erected in Gloucester Cathedral, to the memory of the late Major William Davy. It is of Chilmark stone, and consists of a central canopy, crocketed and crowned with a rich finial, flanked by clustered buttresses, terminating in pinnacles, and supported by corbel angels, bearing shields with initials. The family arms and crests are embossed in panels under the tablet, and in the spandril of the central arch. The inscription is engraved in the old black letter, with rubricated capitals. It is designed and executed by Mr. Osmond, of Salisbury. — The church lately erected at Woolfardisworthy, Devon, was consecrated on Friday last, by the Bishop of Exeter. It was designed by Mr. Hayward, of Exeter, and built

by Mr. Baker, of Southmolton. The velvet altar-cloth, the chair for the altar, the stone pulpit, and the memorial window, were presented to the church by different persons. — Earl Howe, last week, laid the foundation-stone of the new church of St. Stephen's Woodville, near Ashby-de-la-Zouche, when the Countess, Lady Gore, and the Hon. Captain Curzon, were present at the interesting ceremony. — A new ecclesiastical district has been formed in Cheltenham, and a church, in the early Norman style, to be dedicated to St. Peter, will very shortly be erected. The committee of the Church Extension Society have already fixed upon a site and plan, and have also provided a sum of 50*l.* per annum towards a permanent endowment.

BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

THE association met on Wednesday evening last; Mr. Pettigrew, F.R.S., in the chair. In opening the business of the evening, the chairman said, that some discoveries of a very interesting nature had been made during some excavations on the Duke of Beaufort's estate at Badminton, and that his grace had stopped the works until their president and the draftsman of the association could visit the spot. Amongst a variety of antiquities exhibited, were some ancient swords, which led Mr. Planché (when describing them), to inquire if any information concerning the sword of Charles I. at Whitehall, removed from the scabbard, had been obtained. Mr. Crofton Croker, the hon. sec., said he had addressed Lord Lincoln on the subject, but had not yet received a reply.

Allusion being made (in the course of an interesting conversation on the preservation of monuments), to a letter in *The Times* of the preceding day, stating that the tombs of Henry IV. and his queen (at Canterbury), were about to be repaired in a doubtful manner, at a cost of 1,600*l.* Mr. Pratt, the proprietor of the carving machine, said that parts of the tomb were now in his hands to be copied exactly.

Mr. C. Roach Smith, read a valuable paper on Roman antiquities found in and near London, which he exhibited, and at the end of it, brought before the meeting the statement made by Mr. Tite at the Institute of Architects, and his own letter on the subject, given in *THE BUILDER* last week. Mr. Smith also read a correspondence with Mr. Tite, which appears in the present number of our journal, and answered in detail the particular charges brought against him; which charges, he argued, from the circumstances under which they were made, were intended to discredit the Archæological operation through him, their secretary. Mr. Lott, V.S.A., Mr. Jordan, the chairman, and others, addressed the meeting on the subject, and a resolution was passed, expressing regret that Mr. Roach Smith should have been subjected to the attacks complained of, and thanking him warmly for the disinterested zeal which he had ever exerted himself to preserve the antiquities of the city.

REPAIRS OF MAYNOOTH COLLEGE. — *The Globe* says, the board of Maynooth College recently made an application to Sir Robert Peel, stating that the sum of 30,000*l.*, allocated for repairing the old and erecting new buildings, would fall far short of the requisite amount, as appeared by the plans and estimates of Mr. Pugin, the architect, which were forwarded to the right hon. baronet, and it was submitted for the consideration of Government, whether, under such circumstances, an increase of the building fund should not be made. The reply of the Treasury was read at a meeting of the board on Friday evening, peremptorily refusing any increase whatever. Already upwards of 2,000*l.* have been expended by the Board of Works in the repairs of the old college buildings, and much remains to be done, independently of the new buildings. The board, having no alternative, determined to call on Mr. Pugin to make a corresponding reduction in his plans and estimates, in order that the sum allocated, should cover all expenses. A building committee was appointed to consult with the architect, consisting of Archbishops Crolly, Murray, Slattery, and M'Hale; Right Rev. Dr. Kinella, Lord French, Sir Patrick Bellew, and Mr. Hussey.